

Message Text

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13

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 NIC-01 MC-02 ACDA-19 GAC-01

COA-02 RSR-01 /082 W

----- 090284

R 021723 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5443

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USINT ALGIERS

USCINCEUR

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1737

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OVIP SP MR

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA: LOPEZ BRAVO TO VISIT MAURITANIA

REFS A. STATE 59672 (NOTAL; B. STATE 59673 (NOTAL)

1. MFA OFFICIAL INFORMED EMBOFF APRIL 2 THAT FONMIN WILL LEAVE MADRID APRIL 3 FOR CANARIES, WHERE HE WILL OVERNIGHT BEFORE DAY- LONG VISIT TO MAURITANIA, APRIL 4. ANNOUNCED PURPOSE WILL BE TO " CONTINUE PERIODIC MEETINGS BETWEEN FONMINS", BUT PRINCIPAL SPANISH INTEREST IS TO SHORE UP GIRM RESOLVE IN COUNTERACTING CURRENT MOROCCAN PRESSURE ON SAHARA QUESTION. MFA OFFICIAL REAFFIRMED THAT GIRM IS ACTUALLY " DELIGHTED" WITH CURRENT STATUS OF SPANISH SAHARA, AND WILL BE AMENABLE IN FUTURE, UNLIKE MOROCCO, TO INDEPENDENT SAHARA LINKED TO SPAIN BY SPANISH GUARANTEES (SEE MADRID 616). HE ADDED THAT ALGERIA IS ALSO SATISFIED WITH CURRENT SITUATION.

2. RE PROPOSED TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE, MFA SAYS GIRM MIFFED WITH GOM WHICH NOT ONLY DECLINED GIRM INVITATION BUT ALSO MADE COUNTERPROPOSAL FOR RABAT MEETING AT CHIEF OF STATE
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LEVEL ON GROUNDS, AS SET FORTH IN REF B, THAT MOROCCO
" PRINCIPAL INTERESTED PARTY".

3. REFERRING TO MARCH 27 LOPEZ BRAVO TALKS WITH GOM, MFA
OFFICIAL CLAIMED TENSION REDUCED EVEN THOUGH NO CONCRETE
RESULTS REACHED. HE CITED RECENT NAMING OF FORMER GOVERNOR
LAKTIB OF TETUAN AS NEW MOROCCAN AMB TO SPAIN, DESCRIBING
LAKTIB AS " NOTED HISPANIST SCHOLAR, IMPORTANT PERSONALITY
IN MOROCCO, CLOSE TO THRONE, AND WELL DISPOSED TOWARD SPAIN".
GOS PLANS RUSH LAKTIB CREDENTIALS CEREMONY, FOR WHICH LOPEZ
BRAVO WILL RETURN FROM NOUAKCHOTT APRIL 5. MFA ALSO CITED
PROSPECTIVE BENHIMA VISIT TO MADRID LATE APRIL AS MORE
EVIDENCE IMPROVED CLIMATE.

4. ASKED ABOUT SPANISH PRESS AND OTHER PRESSURES ON GOS
IN DISPUTE WITH GOM, MFA OFFICIAL STATED CATEGORICALLY
THAT SPAIN' S POSITION WOULD NOT BE INFLUENCED BY " ULTRA
RIGHT", THAT FONMIN' S CAREFUL APPROACH HAD SPECIFIC APPROVAL
OF FRANCO, " THE ONE MAN WHO COUNTS", AND THAT NEWSPAPER
" YA" ATTITUDE IS COMPREHENSIBLE ONLY IN TERMS OF INTERNAL
POLITICS, I. E., EFFORT BY RIVALS TO EMBARRASS LOPEZ BRAVO AND
" TECHNOCRATS". (NOTE: CONTRASTIC WITH YA HEADLINING OF GOM
COMMERCE MINISTER' S VISIT TO MOSCOW, NO RPT NO MADRID PAPER
MENTIONED BENHIMA VISIT TO WASHINGTON). RE YA REPORT CITED
MADRID 1695, MFA OFFICIAL SAID GOS INFO IS THAT GOM HAD NOT
RPT NOT BOUGHT DOZEN ROCKET FIRING SOVIET LAUNCHERS, AS CLAIMED
BY YA, BUT ONLY ONE. HE ADDED THAT MFA SATISFIED THERE IS NO
RPT NO RELIABLE EVIDENCE HASSAN IS PLANNING ALLOW ESTABLISHMENT
SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE IN MOROCCO.

5. SUMMARIZING GOM- GOS PROBLEMS, MFA OFFICIAL OBSERVED THAT
HASSAN HAS BEEN UNABLE TO ELIMINATE LIBYAN- BACKED GUERILLAS,
WHO ENTER MOROCCO WITH ALGERIAN CONNIVANCE. TO GAIN
POPULARITY AND TO CO- OPT ISSUES EXPOITED BY POPULAR FRONT
MOVEMENTS FAVORED BY LIBYA AND ALGERIA, KING IS ACTIVATING
SAHARA QUESTION, AND PLACING DIFFICULTIES IN PATH OF GOS- GOM
AGREEMENT ON FISHING QUESTIONS IN ORDER TO PRESSURE SPAIN
INTO SAHARAN STANCE FAVORABLE TO MOROCCO. THESE CIRCUMSTANCES
MAKE SITUATION VERY DIFFICULT FOR GOS, WHICH SUPPORTS
HASSAN AS LESSER EVIL IN MOROCCO AS COMPARED WITH LIKELY
ALTERNATIVES.

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6. COMMENT: THERE APPEAR TO BE NO NEW ELEMENTS AT PRESENT

IN SPAIN' S APPROACH TO PROBLEMS WITH MOROCCO, PARTICULARLY
THE SAHARA. CURRENT INTENTION SEEMS TO BE TO REMAIN COOL
AND KEEP TALKING.
RIVERO

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR OVIP SP MR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: thigpegh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MADRID01737
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730430/aaaahjbl.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: thigpegh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <31-Oct-2001 by thigpegh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971114
Subject: SPANISH SAHARA: LOPEZ BRAVO TO VISIT MAURITANIA REFS A. STATE 59672 (NOTAL; B. STATE 59673 (NOTAL)
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, MR, SP, n/a
To: AF
ALGIERS
LISBON
MOSCOW
NOUAKCHOTT
RABAT
SECSTATE WASHDC

USCINCEUR

USUN

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005